

1927  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To The Chairman and Members of the Williton Rural District Council,  
Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you my 10th Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitation of your District,

The District extends over an area of 97,000 Acres and for about 32 miles along the shores of the Bristol Channel.

The population of the District is estimated at 11,900 and the estimated number of inhabited houses is 3604.

The rateable value is £52810 and the sum of £238-3-8 is represented by one penny rate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Return shows 127 births of which 67 were males and 60 females.

The birth rate is therefore 10.67 per 1000, compared with 13.00 of last year.

The Registrar General's Return of deaths show 152, (72 males and 80 females), and this gives a death rate of 12.77 per 1000, compared with 13.64 of last year.

The number of deaths of infants under one year were 9, which gives an Infant Mortality of 70.86 compared with 24.69 of last year.

No Women died in consequence of child birth.

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever or diphtheria.





## HEALTH SERVICES.

There is an Isolation Hospital, known as the Minehead and Williton Hospital, where cases of Infectious Diseases, (Other than Small Pox) which cannot be satisfactorily isolated at home are sent.

There is a steam disinfecter where all bedding and clothing can be disinfected, and a ~~motor~~ ambulance provided for the use of Infectious cases, in which cases can be removed from their homes to the Hospital.

The County Authorities have a Small Pox Hospital at Polden Hills to which any case occuring in the District can go.

Eight Vaccinations were preformed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

The County have a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Minehead at which Dr Short the Cou<sup>n</sup>ty Tuberculosis Officer or Dr Martyn the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer attends every Thursday, and to which all residents in the District can go for examination.

A Lady Health Visitor visits every known case and reports upon it.

Care Committees have been formed in the District, who, when necessary provide extra nourishment in needy cases.

In needful cases a shelter is provided on the reccommendation of the County Tuberculosis Officer.

There is no Institution in the District which provides for unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children or Homeless Children, other than the Poor Law Institution.





Infectious Diseases. Number of cases Notified. Removed to Hospital. Deaths

Small Pox.		
Scarlet Fever.	8.	6.
Diphtheria.	3.	3.
Enteric Fever.		
Puerperal Fever.		
Pneumonia.	2.	
Encephalitis Lethargica.		
Acute Poliomyelitis.		
Ophthalmia Neonatorium.		
Puerperal Pyrexia.		
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.		
Erysipelas.	2.	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15.	9.
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Scarlet Fever. No area was chiefly affected, and the cases were of a mild type. The rate for the whole Country being 2.53 per 1000, whilst this District was .67 per 1000.

Diphtheria. 3 cases were notified during the year. The rate of the whole Country being 1.39 per 1000, whilst this District was .25 per 1000. A Supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Serum is kept by the M.C.H, and can be supplied at any time when wanted, and in doubtful cases, swabs are sent to the County Laboratory for examination.

Neither the Selrick nor the Dick Test has been used in this District.

Pneumonia. Two cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorium.

No case of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorium occurred,

Arrangements regarding Puerperal Cases etc are made by the County Authorities as follows:-





<u>Hospital.</u>	<u>Class of cases admitted.</u>			
Bristol Royal Infirmary.	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Bridgwater Hospital.	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Wells & District Cottage Hospital.	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Yeovil & District Hospital.	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Taunton Isolation Hospital.	O.N.			
Chard & District Hospital.		P.F.	&	P.P.

### Nurses.

Application is made by the Doctor in charge of the case direct to the County Medical Officer of Health for a nurse for Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases.

For cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia usually the nurse associated with the case is retained, but in special cases a fully trained nurse in addition is sent, if application is made direct to the County Medical Officer of Health explaining the special necessity.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New cases.

#### Deaths.

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.								
1.								
5.								
10.	1.			1.				
15.								
20.	1.		1.				1.	
25.		3.						
35.								
45.						1.		
55.								
65up.					2.			
Totals.	2.	3.	1.	1.	2.	1.	1.	

### WATER SUPPLY.

Private enterprise is chiefly responsible for pipe borne water in most of the villages in the District, the District Council being responsible for comparatively few.

For instance, there are private water supplies in 16 villages, in 10 villages the supply belongs to the District Council, leaving 7 without a piped water supply.





By an arrangement with the County Authorities, the Public and Private Water Supplies are periodically examined, by this means that a defective supply can soon be discovered.

Most of the 7 villages without a piped water supply are scattered and the inhabitants depend upon isolated springs and wells.

There is not much cause for comment for the water supply of the District as a whole.

1. The new water supply for West Quantoxhead has been completed and the houses without water has been connected thereto.

2. The question of providing a water supply for Crowcombe Heathfield is under consideration and a Scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of the Local Streams worth mentioning, other than the complaints with regard to the Wootton Courtenay and Withycombe Sewerage emptying into the Local Streams.

With regard to Withycombe, a Scheme has been prepared which will, when carried out, cure the complaint at that place.

In the case of Wootton Courtenay, steps will be taken to deal with this sewage outfall as soon as the necessary land is acquired, and time can be found to prepare the Scheme.

The new Sewer for Dunster is completed and all sewage is now taken to sea, thus curing the pollution of the local stream.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the larger villages have a system of piped sewers which are kept in good working order. The villages of Withycombe, Roadwater, Bossington and Holford are however still unsewered.

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## GLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are no closely built or populous centres in the District, where closets on the conservancy system remain in any great quantity. There are still however Privies and Earth Closets in the District, and there are to be found in every village.

## SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse in the District has been dealt with by the Council, in a very thorough manner, and practically the whole of the Rural Area now has its refuse collected.

Dumps have been provided:-

1. Bossington with a forced draught Incinerator to serve Porlock, Luccombe, Selworthy, Wootton Courtenay and Minehead Without.
2. Dunster with an Incinerator without a forced draught to serve Dunster, Timberscombe, Cutcombe, Carhampton, Withycombe and half of the Parish of Old Cleeve.

A new Incinerator with a forced draught is under construction and will be completed in 1937.

3. At Woolston to serve Williton, Treborough, Luxborough, half of the Parish of Old Cleeve, Nettlecombe, Monksilver, Elworthy, Brompton Ralph, Clatworthy, Stogumber, Bicknoller and Sampford Brett.
4. At Strington to serve Strington, Dodington, Stogursey, West and East Quantoxhead, Kilve, Molford and Kilton.

The collections are made fortnightly for Porlock, Williton and Dunster and Monthly elsewhere.

The whole of the collections are made by means of a modern covered Dustless Motor Vehicle, and there is no waste or unsightliness during transit.





SUMMARY OF WORKS DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Inspections.	695.
Re-Inspections.	602.

Total.	<u>1297.</u>
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Houses Redrained.	42.	Workshop Inspections.	49.
New W.C's Provided.	41.	Premises Disinfected.	18.
Premises Lined & Cleansed.	21.	Milk Samples for Examination.	42.
Slaughter House Inspections.	38.	Water Samples for Analysis.	18.
Diary Inspections.	50.		

S C H O O L S.

The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply to the Public Elementary Schools are on the whole good.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Staff consists of Mr.R.E.Jackman, Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Surveyor, an whole time Officer, who holds the Certificate of The Sanitary Institute as a Qualified Inspector, and is a Member of The Municipal and County Engineers, also a Fellow of the Incorporated Association of Surveyors.

There are 3604 houses in the District and 2138 are working class dwellings.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District:-

Public Health Acts Amendment Acts 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The Housing Conditions of the District has greatly improved, and the Council are erecting a further 20 houses.

295 houses have been erected by the Williton R.D.Council since the War, and has greatly improved the Housing Conditions in the District.

Careful attention is still being paid to the provisions of the Housing Act 1930, and 11 houses are being built to replace 11 that are condemned. To meet the shortage of housing accommodation at Dunster 9 houses have been built.





HOUSING. (As required by the Ministry of Health).

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- (i) With State Assistance,
  - (a) By The Local Authority. Nil.
  - (b) By Other Bodies or Persons. Nil.
- (ii) Otherwise, 44.

Housing Inspections:-

- 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 157.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 298.
- 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. 27.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 76.
- 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 3.
- 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 21.

Housing Action.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 39.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1930.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.
  - (a) By Owners. Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil.





B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.
- (a) By Owners. Nil.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. No Orders Made.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 6 without orders.

Ministry of Health Inquiries,  
Object, result:-

Particulars of any held.

Nil.

HOUSING ACT 1935. Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 14.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. 14.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. 94½.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 30.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 16.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 103.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register. 306.

Number of Distributors on Register divided as follows:-

- (a) Distributors only. 5. (b) Distributors who are also Producers. 43.

(A Producer is only included as a Distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual consumers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors. Nil.  
(If any, give particulars of type, i.e., pasteurised, certified etc).

Meat Supervision. Slaughterhouses. Licenced 9. Registered 6. Total 15.





Signed.

E. Atkinson.

Medical Officer of Health,

To The Williton Rural District Council.

May 1937.

